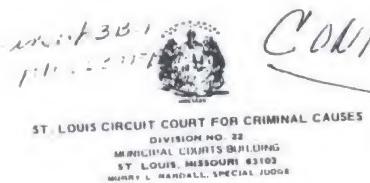


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Congressman Louis Stokes;
Chairman, House Select Committee on Assassinations;
House Office Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Stokes:

Your Committee has subpoenaed me
to testify publicly in a matter
concerning one Russell Cooper,
Byers, who is known here to be one
of the most dangerous criminals
in this city. He has received a lot
of publicity here in recent months.
Just a few months ago, in the
course of an on-going investigation
here of him by the F.B.I. and police

HSCA DIA



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ST. LOUIS CIRCUIT COURT FOR CRIMINAL CAUSES
DIVISION NO. 22
CLERK'S OFFICE, 10TH FLOOR
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63101
PHONE 3-2400, 3-2401, 3-2402

With respect to arrests on one Fine and related matters, it was reported in the Public Press that his principal associate in crime was murdered almost immediately after the associates visited an F.B.I. office. I believe that this man's murder was arranged by the person to whom he and Mr. Byers had sold the Statues stolen from the museum, and Mr. Byers is now fearful that this publicity is classing him an informant and the same fate will occur to him.

ST. LOUIS CIRCUIT
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Mr. Byers
this report to
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ST. LOUIS CIRCUIT COURT FOR CRIMINAL CAUSES
 DIVISION NO. 22
 MUNICIPAL COURTS BUILDING
 ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63103
 MURRAY RANDALL, SPECIAL JUDGE

I believe my public testimony,
 and that of Mr. Byers' will no longer
 live including my own.

Yet my testimony is of no real
 value to your investigation. The
 remarks Mr. Byers made to me,
 while representing him in a civil case
 (I never represented him in any
 criminal matter), occurred several
 months after similar remarks
 by Mr. Byers had been reported
 to the F.B.I.

Mr. Byers has told me that
 this report was made by one Richard
 O'Neal, a thin criminal partner

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ST. LOUIS CIRCUIT COURT FOR CRIMINAL CAUSES
DIVISION M, MUNICIPAL COURT
MURRAY L. HARRELL, JUDGE
MURRAY L. HARRELL, SPECIAL JUDGE

of Byers. As with most stories fabricated by criminals, the remarks only involved dead persons.

At about the time the remarks were reported to the F.B.I., Mr. Byers expressed serious concern to me as to whether Mr. Byers was an F.B.I. informant. I believe those remarks by Mr. Byers were fabricated and purposely planted with Mr. O'Hara for the purpose of trying to find out whether Mr. O'Hara was an F.B.I. informant, since the only person in F.B.I. could possibly check with was Mr. Byers himself. The F.B.I.



ST. LOUIS CIRCUIT COURT I
DIVISION M
MUNICIPAL COURT
ST. LOUIS, MISS.
MURRAY L. HARRELL, I

apparently recognized such and did in Byers, as to do so endangered the life

Mr. Byers told the story to me of preparing on representation of he was questioned

Mr. Byers is a person. I urge the F.B.I. before introducing testimony and interfere with this inquiry; Judge William Webb Director F.B.I.



ST. LOUIS CIRCUIT COURT FOR CRIMINAL CAUSES
DIVISION NO. 22
MUNICIPAL JUSTICE BUILDING
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63103
MURRAY L. RANDELL, SPECIAL JUDGE

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apparently recognized them as
such and did not interview Mr.
Byers, as to do so would have
endangered the life of its informant.

Mr. Byers then, I believe, told
this story to me for the purpose
of preparing me for possible
representation of him in the event
he was questioned by the F.B.I.

Mr. Byers is such a scheming
person. I urge you to check with
the F.B.I. before endangering lives with
such testimony and also whether it will
interfere with their investigation
(pyto: George William Webster) Yours very truly
Director F.B.I. M. Kelly Z. Randall